

Up to March 16, 1968

**2,799 U.S. planes were
downed in North Viet Nam**

VIETNAM COURIER

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March 18

1968

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IN THIS ISSUE:

MARCH 19:

**Day of
Nationwide
Struggle
Against U.S.
Imperialism**

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Photo:

**Enemy tanks
attacked
by the P.L.A.F.**

SOUTH VIET NAM

P.L.A.F. CONTINUOUS ATTACKS

- * G.I.'s under Tight Siege at Khe Sanh.
- * Hard Blows at U.S. Logistic Bases.
- * Many U.S. and Puppet Battalions Wiped Out.

THE armed forces and people of South Viet Nam continue to attack the enemy in all theatres of operations, wiping out greater and greater number of his troops. They also hammer at many logistic sectors and seal off important communication lines, thus creating great difficulties to the enemy in transport and supply.

or destroyed 196 planes and helicopters, and demolished many depots and warehouses.

Enemy convoys on the sections of Highways No 1 and 9 passing through this region have been frequently intercepted. Military vessels and barges plying between Dong Ha and Cuu Viet were pounded by P.L.A.F. artillery and suffered heavy damage: on February 25 and 27, the enemy had 17 vessels damaged, burnt or sunk with their freight. Dong Ha and Cuu Viet were violently attacked many times between February 21 and 29. Despite heavy air and naval supports and artillery pounding of the enemy, the P.L.A.F. fought successful fierce battles against the enemy's covering troops and heavily shelled his vital targets, chiefly the wharves. One of the biggest ammunition depots of the Yankees in South Viet Nam was blown up at Cuu Viet on March 11: according to Western press agencies the explosions lasted at least 10 hours running.

DURING the siege of Hue from February 28 to March 5, 1968, the P.L.A.F. came into contact a dozen times with the U.S. and puppet columns raiding the city and its periphery.

The engagement on March 1 was particularly fierce. 4 U.S. battalions raided the sectors of Tan Thanh (5 km

northeast of Hue) and Hien Si (10 km northwest of Hue) as well as the town quarters close to Hue. The armed forces and people of the city inflicted upon them serious losses in a violent engagement. In a 10-minute hand-to-hand fight, a self-defence unit of the city wiped out a platoon of the U.S. First Air Cavalry Division.

ON March 4, the armed forces and people of Quang Nam province launched fresh attacks on Da Nang as well as on many district capitals and enemy military bases. The P.L.A.F. guns scored direct hits on important targets, causing big fires. According to preliminary reports, the P.L.A.F.

(Continued page 8)

DEATH KNEEL OF PUPPET ARMY HAS TOLLED

THE thunderous widespread attacks launched by the Liberation Armed Forces and the insurgent population of South Viet Nam since late January have inflicted extremely severe losses in manpower and material on the U.S.-puppet troops, and the consequences of those events are of incalculable gravity for Washington on the political, military as well as

psychological planes. One of the problems that most torment Johnson and Company is the massive disintegration at an unprecedented rate of the puppet armed forces.

NEW FACTS

ACCORDING to initial statistics supplied by the N.F.I., the number of men and officers having

broken away from the puppet army in the first days of February 1968 has almost equalled the total number for the six years 1961-1966: 200,000 men in six days. Through the length of South Viet Nam, many big units (battalions, regiments and even divisions) have been completely dislocated or exist only on the muster roll of

(Continued page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

A LOOK BACK

ever before, was held responsible for all these reverses. It was blamed for having not kept military secrets and above all, for the lack of combativity which incited it to flee whenever things got hot, thus disastrously exposing the flank of the American units²². The U.S. Command then thought better not "involve" its "allies" in its own operations.

THE LOGICAL COURSE OF THINGS

THE process of dislocation of the puppet army springs, in the first place, from the very nature of this anti-national army which has no roots in the people. In fact, all its generals and the majority of its high-ranking officers

The cause which they are fighting for is a just cause. Their political line is the only correct one as clearly demonstrated by the recently announced Political Program of the N.F.L. All this has transformed each combatant of the Liberation Armies Forces into a valiant fighter. The sound and lenient policy of the N.F.L. towards the puppet troops has had profound repercussions in the minds of these strayed persons and is irresistibly pushing them back onto the right path.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

He

RIGHT in the early days of the U.S. war of de-

He Take

His Brot

er's Place

COMPARED with the school-years 1955-56 (immediately after the first war of resistance) and 1964-65 (at the start of American aggression against the D.R.V.N.), enrolment in vocational secondary schools for 1967-68 has gone up 22.6 times and 2 times respectively. At present there are 200 such schools, of which 40 have been set up these last two years, with an enrolment of 120,000 distributed in 150 different branches.

HUNG could not believe that Dung, his younger

A worker at the Hon G power station and a staunch militant, her husband had spent four years in Son La penal settlement before settling down in that village in the suburbs of Hanoi. During the resistance war against the French colonialists, he was an officer in the famous Division 308. He died in the field of honour in 1953 in the same mining area where he had fought for a decade.

It was with the intention

advice repeatedly given him by the local leader of the Youth Union no longer carried conviction. He must join the army again and stand just where his brother had fallen. His health was waning. No more worry about the living of his mother, now a state employee. But after Dang's death, wouldn't his absence cause the old woman a great sorrow? The doubt harassed him. In the end, he made a clean breast of it to his

mother. "What a joy, what a pride! The old mother shared his feeling. After bowing her head in her son's memory before his grave, she had expressed to the company commander the hope that she would be allowed to take the place of his younger brother.

Some sort of welcome was arranged for Hsueh's arrival at the encampment; but it could not come off; to the regimental town place and village had to rush toward an A.A. battery, the one previously manned by his brother.

In an A.A. unit defending Hanoi, a fighter has thus replaced his younger brother killed a few weeks before.

of three

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Wiping her tears, the mother asked to be shown to Dung's grave. Before leaving the campment, she handed the oranges which were meant for Dung to his mates. But none of them had the heart to eat; she had to bite her lips so she would not burst into sobs. The light was out for a long time and now and then she would hear tossing in her bed.

VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

MEETING MARKS 18th ANNIVERSARY OF DAY OF NATIONWIDE STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM

A meeting was held on March 13 in Hanoi, by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Permanent Mission of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in North Viet Nam, and the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee to mark the 18th anniversary of the Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism and welcome the Week of International Solidarity with Viet Nam.

It was attended by representatives of various political parties, mass organizations, nationalities, religious communities, and armed forces and people of all strata in Hanoi.

Addressing the meeting, Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and member of the Politburo of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee said:

"This year, Viet Nam's Day of Nationwide Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism has become a day of worldwide solidarity with Viet Nam against U.S. aggression. In response to the call of the Tri-Continental Committee for Support for Viet Nam, a Week of International Solidarity with

Viet Nam is being observed in many places around the world. This is a great stimulus for us. We warmly welcome the Week of International Solidarity with Viet Nam; we thank the peoples in the fraternal socialist countries, Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the progressive people of the world over including progressive people in the United States for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's resistance against U.S. aggression, for national liberation.

"Eighteen years ago, armed only with their bare hands for the enemy and their determination to fight and to win, our completely unarmed people have succeeded in forcing U.S. warships and aircraft to withdraw from our country. We firmly believe that today, with the one-minded blue of our 31 million people, having powerful forces in all aspects and enjoying the strong sympathy and support of the peoples all over the world, will certainly inflict complete defeat on the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately reunify our country."

Speaking next, Nguyen Thi Luu, Assistant Secretary of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee and Secretary General of the Viet Nam

Asian-African Solidarity Committee, said:

"The U.S. imperialists are persisting in their aggression and have committed monstrous crimes. The Vietnamese people have smashed U.S. 'neo-colonialism,' defeated the 'special war' and are defeating the 'local war' of the U.S. chiefs of the imperialist war-mongers."

Praising the victories of the Vietnamese people, especially of the South Vietnamese people, since only Viet Nam, Nguyen Thi Luu said:

"The tremendous and all-sided victories recently won by the South Vietnamese people have brought about a new situation in which the U.S. aggressors are driven further into a defensive posture and impasse and cannot escape complete failure."

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. imperialists for obstinately continuing their dirty war of aggression in Viet Nam and at the same time raising a battle cry about their 'desire for peace.'

The resolution reiterated the determination of the Vietnamese people to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors in as to liberate the South, defend the North and reunify the country.

The Battle of the Citadel

RECENT events in South Viet Nam, and especially in Saigon, have been the "Hawks" of the Pentagon and the White House into clamor. The carefully cultivated myth about an American big stick that imposes its will on the entire world has suddenly exploded. The Johnsons, the Kennedys, the Bragdonos, can hardly impose people any more except the more naive ones.

their utter ignorance of facts. They had better brush up their history. They will learn that Saigon has never yielded to any big warrior, be it electronic.

EIGHTEEN years ago, in the city of French occupation, the Saigonese were the first to raise the banner of struggle against U.S. intervention. On March 19, 1950, led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, now President of the N.F.L., a mass demonstration, in fact, took the city with the sound of its footstep. The two U.S. destroyers, prowling off Saigon for a show of strength, dared not stay any longer in face of this effervescence, because the city's people were being overturned by the stars-and-stripes torn to pieces. Already in Dallas, too, our compatriots shouted "Down with U.S. intervention!" and "Yankee, go home!" This was clear, outright, sharp and crackling as a lash of whip. Yet, the American C.I.-makers a low-key plan for an immediate reinforcement of 100,000 men! A new expeditionary force, one might as well say, definitely, the sense of the ridiculous of the sabre-rattling. The Yanks have somewhere while flying over the Pacific.

The fortress of the Embassy taken by storm, the "Independence Palace" destroyed, Radio Saigon destroyed, all the H.Q.'s of the puppet army and police demolished, the Inter-Army General Staff overthrown. Ten South Nhat airfield taken and re-taken under the running fire of the P.L.A.F. whole quarters swept clean of collaborationist "remains." The Yanks have to be soundly thrashed that it is difficult to "Westernize" to preserve himself again as a dashing commander before Congress. While crying up victory, the American C.I.-makers a low-key plan for an immediate reinforcement of 100,000 men! A new expeditionary force, one might as well say, definitely, the sense of the ridiculous of the sabre-rattling. The Yanks have somewhere while flying over the Pacific.

That Johnson and Company have chosen Saigon as a springboard for attack and last refuge furthermore proves

repression with all its blind brutality, all that did not accord with the carrot and turned up its nose at the big stick. Pseudo-democraticism degenerated into bloody feudalism with police. War was brought to the barracks. The U.S. Embassy itself was bombed. To add a pinch that, losing its head and discarding its words after Colonel Simons was fired by Caracas guerrillas, the Johnson House had the electrician Nguyen Van Troi executed for having attempted to blow up the bridge which McNamee would be crossing. Thinking that this might serve as an example, Jonson set fire to the powder-keg.

Things got worse with the massive arrival of C.I.'s at the beginning of the "local war." The troops of the occupation troops served as an eye-opener for even the personnel and officers of the puppet administration and army as to the mechanism of U.S. intervention. The U.S. laid bare the felony of the so-called "Third-Key" movement sent Saigon in the interventionist again.

Workers of the VIMITEK, dockers, taxi-drivers, and other manual workers by periodic, sometimes bloody, strikes, kept up the sacred flame of Revolution. Vigilant college youth, to the streets, angered by the U.S. interventionist, student Le Hong Tu, the student hero who was killed by the other strata of the people in the movement of resistance. The White House gave too much heed to the increased number, demographic measures by the armful, a ruthless

Contrary to the expectations of its promoters, Yankee terror in the end brought about the very opposite of the patriotic forces. The memory of professor Le Quoc Tri sentenced to death, of his colleague Nguyen Thi Dieu himself was bombed. To add a pinch that, losing its head and discarding its words after Colonel Simons was fired by Caracas guerrillas, the Johnson House had the electrician Nguyen Van Troi executed for having attempted to blow up the bridge which McNamee would be crossing. Thinking that this might serve as an example, Jonson set fire to the powder-keg.

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As a result of this mammoth demonstration, the U.S. troops pulled out of their strategic attempt.

March 19, 1950: Two U.S. destroyers, the *Stickens* and the *Anderson* arrived at Saigon port to show the flag, together with aircraft from an aircraft carrier operating off the South Viet Nam coast, thus marking U.S. outright intervention in the Indo-Chinese war of the French colonialists.

March 18, 1950: More than 500,000 demonstrators march past the U.S. Embassy, and set fire to American cars. The U.S. Embassy was set on fire. The U.S. President, and other well-known intellectuals and personalities, they displayed the yellow-starred flag, the symbol of the U.S. imperialism!

take great care not to risk a single step in Saigon. Going to work by helicopter, sleeping most often on board navy ships under U.S. armor corps and establishing for the smallest privilege handed out by Washington, these peculiar laws of the puppet Republic of Saigon, the U.S. puppet, aware that their days are numbered, the review of the troops in the streets by the P.L.A.F. mortaring, the U.S. interventionist, now explosive, has been shaking Saigon all the days of U.S. occupation. Winning over all sections of the population, it has become an urban movement of unprecedented violence. Street hawkers, barmen and even children themselves brand the aggressors as gorillas.

In spite of the Honolulu embraces and the election farce in November 1950, Thien and Ky have included, nationally and internationally, and licensed traitors, but prudent and without illusion, they

... "Long-haired army" women's suits waving political struggle.

What Happened in Saigon on March 18 and 19, 1950

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MARCH 19 DAY OF NATIONWIDE STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM

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Who could help thinking of this at a time when it becomes clear, in spite of the ranting of a Washington Constitution, and the buffoonery of a Nguyen Cao Ky, that American aggressive imperialism and its native valets have lost on the whole front? All American and puppet measures have failed, and the military gains have been the balance of forces has been tipped in our favor. World opinion has been turned more explicit condemnation of the patent crime of aggression against our people, and while the many friends we have won in the West, and doubling the efforts to help us come out on top, over the years, the people of our society itself have demanded that the Johnson administration should be removed by this war with no way out which it troubles their conscience.

The Vietnamese people, fired by the brilliant success of the Lunar New Year day of strength, are entering the present phase of struggle with increased confidence. This does not mean that we have any illusions as to the sacrifices that we still have to endure. But we know, and say so, that victory is already ours. And while we rely first of all on the courage of the people and officers, and the selflessness of our people to triumph over the aggressors, we highly value any support and encouragement to our own effort, wherever it may come from.

So, then, whenever we proclaim our confidence in victory, we also express our confidence in the friendship and gratitude to peoples and men of good will over the world who, in one way or another, condemn American crimes and approved of our own effort to aggression. And that is why, in this crucial moment of our fight against the American imperialists, we think that the Americans are with us. Our friends like to remark that never in the history of the United States experienced such political and moral turmoil, and approval of our own effort to aggression. And that is why, in this crucial moment of our fight against the American imperialists, we think that the Americans are with us.

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THE AMERICANS ARE WITH US

nothing else, at the cost of our blood, than the right to live on our own land and to settle our own affairs.

They also know that we make a distinction between the imperialists who trace the cloak of the American flag as attempting to reduce us to slavery, and the American people for whom we are not enemies. We sincerely feel sorry for those young Americans who, deceived by their government, are getting killed by the ten of thousands far from their native land, and out of any plausible reason. As to the star-spangled banner we are not the ones who are damaging it; those who are doing so are those who are planning for the Great Society have already been shelved, the people's savings are depreciated by inflation and taxes are being increased. What is even worse, because the war is already lost, under the pretext that the puppet military corps should be saved at all costs, American liberties are being exposed to a mortal peril. But who is exposing American soldiers to danger? Not the Johnson administration itself! And the American people, in complete agreement with ours, have been telling it, every day,

The Viet Nam war is against the United States and the combined efforts of American people and our own have thus been deprived of their nearly 20 years of century now! It is certain that the misadministration used by Mr. Johnson against our fundamental national rights. But we demand

BARRICADES IN SAIGON SPEED

"I HE tank shivered, veered, sped, smoked, then stopped in a dead-end alley. I dashed out quick as lightning and fired a burst of his sub-machinegun at the left G.I. in the vehicle. Other Liberation armymen rushed to the front of the neighboring houses. They were followed by a group of various ages and attire. They were carrying pieces of furniture, empty of drums, cement bags, pieces of timber, with which they built two barricades across the street, with the carcasses of the tanks as the front. Way did you turn down the sandwiches those schoolgirls offered you? Why should you be so kind to a friend?" The group broke into laughter. A young girl who was bringing a sandwich in order in a nearby marketplace, she said: "The people left plenty of food for us before evacuating their area. Why should we refuse to touch it? We're fighting

the Yanks, aren't we?" A young man in space opened a plastic bag and handed it passed them around. "Have a smoke, boys..."

Chinese accent who was lying on his stomach some distance from the front line, his comrades, and share our meal later in the day."

Sudden the girl sprang to her feet and took cover behind a tree. A small figure appeared in the distance, leading for the barricade, waving his arms, shouting the obvious, with "China looking like grenades at the end of his nose. He looked down at the worker lifted his head to scan the approaching figure.

Do not shoot," he cried out. "It's Old Man's son!"

in the first place. And we have been pleased to see that the more it gets out of order, the more Americans side with us.

We keep in our memory the moving sacrifices of Hells Here, H. Morrison and others. We sympathize with the young people who have burnt their draft cards in public, with the artists who have in their songs glorified the moving sacrifices of Hells Here, H. Morrison and others. We sympathize with the young people who have burnt their draft cards in public, with the artists who have in their songs glorified the moving sacrifices of Hells Here, H. Morrison and others.

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PHAM HUU THONG
Vice Chairman of the Viet Nam Committee for the Defense of World Peace, Member of the World Peace Council.

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WARSAW TREATY CONFERENCE ISSUES PRO-VIET NAM STATEMENT

THE Conference of the Political Consultative Committee of Warsaw, a new Treaty-member countries held on March 6 and 7, 1968 in Sofia (Bulgaria) unanimously approved a statement on the "threat to peace resulting from the widening of American aggression in Viet Nam."

The statement sternly condemns the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam, their acts and their policy of continuing war escalation and their barbaric crimes. It also condemns and warns the reactionary authorities in Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, West Germany, who have sent reinforcements to Viet Nam to help the U.S. imperialists in their war of aggression there.

Highly appreciative of the recent great victories of the South Viet Nam people and armed forces, the statement affirms that these victories "herald a new stage of the liberation struggle of the people of South Viet Nam have shattered its foundations the whole American-Saigon war system. This offensive against the U.S. imperialists is a just and justifiable to the unity of the people and the N.F.L. and the heroic and bravery of the

Vietnamese patriots, the revolutionary strength of the liberation movement, which expresses the national aspirations of the people and their determination to drive the aggressors from Vietnamese soil."

The statement warmly hailed the victories of great international significance of the Vietnamese people in the struggle against the U.S. aggression and stresses: "These are an important contribution to the struggle for peace, independence, democracy, and socialism of the countries of the world socialist system and of all peoples."

The participants in the Conference once again declare that they resolutely support the four points of the Government of the D.R.V.N. and the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the statement of the D.R.V.N. demanding that the U.S. unconditionally stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., strongly condemn the U.S. ruling circles' double talk aiming at covering U.S. war escalation.

This offensive against the U.S. imperialists must bear full responsibility for prolonging the war in Viet Nam. The participants in the Conference

firmly and resolutely demand that the U.S. stop immediately, permanently and unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., put an end to its aggression in South Viet Nam, withdraw U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and respect the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese people.

Reiterating their determination to continue the struggle against the Vietnamese people "who are standing in the front line of the armed struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors," the participants in the Conference reaffirm in their statement that they will continue to offer the Vietnamese people "full support and all necessary aid, especially in the sphere of economy, defence, technology and specialists."

The Warsaw Treaty members declare their readiness to declare their volunteers to go to Viet Nam at the request of the Government of the D.R.V.N. The statement finally expresses the Conference's firm conviction that "the Vietnamese people will win, and their just cause will triumph."

made clear in his March 9, 1968 statement, that the D.R.V.N. "fully supports the correct position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed in the statement of February 27, 1968 of the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the D.P.R.K. The Government of the D.R.V.N. strongly insists that the U.S. imperialists stop at once all acts of war provocation against the D.P.R.K., withdrawal of American troops from South Korea, let the Korean people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference and immediately dissolve the so-called "U.N. Commission for the Reunification of Korea."

The spokesman of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry said: "The U.S. imperialists are making feverish preparations, thus directly threatening the security of the D.P.R.K., seriously jeopardizing the peace in Asia and the world and flagrantly violating the 1953 armistice agreements and international law."

They have already launched the South Korean people's patriotic activities provocations from North Korea." They masterminded the so-called "U.N. Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" into demanding an end to these provocations and to these "provocations" from the Pak Jung Hui clique of qualms to send a letter calling on the 16 countries involved in the U.S. aggressive war in Korea to join in a new war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is obvious that the U.S. imperialists and their Pak

U.S. IMPERIALISTS ARE MAKING FEVERISH WAR PREPARATIONS AGAINST KOREA

THE U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hui clique have increasingly been carrying out more and more serious acts of war provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They have deployed the Third Mobile Fleet off the ports of Korea, sent to South Korea more bombers, fighters and fighter planes and attacked many ports north of the military demarcation line. More serious still, they recently sent the intelligence ship *Pueblo* into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K.

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Racists' Heinous Crimes in South Rhodesia

A wave of indignation has been triggered off in Africa and throughout the world by the recent crimes of the racist authorities in South Rhodesia headed by Ian Smith, who, in defiance of protests from the United Nations (South Rhodesia), the African people and progressive opinion in the world, executed three Zimbabwe patriots on March 6, 1968 and sentenced to death eight others on March 7. At present, there are 115 patriots

under death sentences. Their lives are in great danger.

The monstrous crimes of the Smith clique have laid bare the extremely reactionary nature of the racist South Rhodesian political regime which is a mere replica of South Africa's apartheid rule. After their November 21, 1965 proclamation of "independence" force the Smith clique to the violence to consolidate the white colonialists' domination over the four million Africans

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk: The United States Can by No Means Justify or Invoke Extenuating Circumstances for Its Aggression

SAMDECH NORODOM Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, has just granted an interview to the Bulgarian weekly in the world, the Bulgarian News Agency BTA reported on March 9, 1968. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk declared:

"We fully support the four-point programme of the D.R.V.N. Government and the five points of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. who can restore peace in Indo-China. Such a peace could only be secured after the execution of American troops and bases from South Vietnam and after recognition of the Vietnamese people's right and that of the other Indo-Chinese peoples to settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference."

"Only by giving full political and moral support to the Vietnamese patriots who are struggling for the liberation of their country, which is for a sacred cause which also herself is also fighting for, can Cambodia really contribute to the restoration of peace."

"I am deeply convinced that the United States cannot justify its aggression against a country which has never threatened the security of the U.S."

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Cambodian Foreign Ministry Protests Against U.S.-Satellite Troops' Aggressive Acts

THE Cambodian Foreign Ministry on March 4 and 5, 1968, sent notes to the U.S. Government, Saigon puppet regime and Thai pro-U.S. administration strongly protesting against the aggressive acts of U.S.-satellite troops who killed Cambodian citizens and took away many cattle and property, the Cambodian

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West German Students' Uprising Muong Ngan Liberated

THE Xiang Khuaung (upper Laos) people and army on February 3, 1968, neatly wiped out the Commands of many Battalions and 23 stations of American troops from the Xiang Khuaung village, while their black and rifle died in confusion and were called on to surrender. The *Daikho* Lao News Agency RPL reported.

According to incomplete figures, in this attack the Xiang Khuaung people and army put out of action 104 troops of the pro-U.S. administration, captured 65 firearms of various types including 22 automatic rifles, 100 mm mortar, 3 tons of ammunition, 4,000 grenades etc.

Moong Ngan village was illegally occupied by the enemy. It is 2,500 people are now liberated.

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Zambia against the Smith clique shows that the African people are aware of the perfidy of the British Labour government and are supported by the U.S. imperialists who are perpetrating crimes against the African people and savagely suppressing African-Americans in the U.S.

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P. L. A. F. Continuous Attacks

(Continued from page 1)

took a toll of over 350 casualties from the U.S. and puppet troops including 5 U.S. company, downed or destroyed 35 planes and choppers and demolished many logistic depots.

ON March 10, the P.L.A.F. artillery pounded many U.S. fuel depots at Nha Trang. The Da Nang depot built on the seashore with a pipeline was also set afire. According to Western reports, huge columns of flames and smoke rose hundreds of metres above sea level. The

enemy admitted the loss of many million litres of petrol. The Nha Trang depot also suffered heavy damage.

KEEPING up their offensive, the armed forces and people of Nam Bo mounted between March 5 and 10 a series of attacks against 6 urban centres and provincial capitals in the Mekong Delta: Tra Vinh, My Tho, Vinh Long, Can Tho, Sadek and Ca Mau, destroying many puppet organs. The P.L.A.F. also shelled many airfields such as Lo Te, Tra Noc (Can Tho province) and My Tho, destroying or damaging many aircraft. They also intercepted many U.S. and puppet battalions on looting raids. One of the most remarkable engagements was the March 7 one, in which a battalion of Regiment 7 and another one of Regiment 8 of puppet Division 5 were wiped out about 5 km from Thau Dau Mot town, north of Saigon. Meanwhile, the P. L. A. F. intercepted the U.S. and puppet battalions sent to mend Highway No. 4, an important supply route linking Saigon to the Mekong Delta. In Ben Tre province (100 km south of Saigon), puppet 5, Regiment 10, puppet Infantry Division 7, was put out of action after suffering 370 casualties in battles taking place from March 5 to 7.



What is more, they ignore virtually all what has happened in various districts. They have not witnessed the enthusiastic welcome given the P.L.A.F. by the population which served as their guides, catered to them and took great care of them. They have not seen the cheerfulness which followed the formation of self-defence units, the setting up of revolutionary committees, the operation of groups of voluntary workers, the distribution of food supplies, the enlistment in the Liberation Army, and the emergence of "nginh binh" units composed solely of break-away puppet soldiers. They have not, first of all, read the joy and pride radiating on every face.

They have seen nothing, just as they have understood nothing. They have kept from Saigon only the memories of the artificial glamour of the bars and buildings, fresh-looking streets, and sunny harbours. But the soul of the city is elsewhere. It glows in the eyes of its inhabitants. The eyes of Nguyen Van Troi stepping with his head high towards the execution post. The eyes of those martyrs who fall without submission. But also the eyes of the anonymous crowd in which shines the same steel glare.

Saigon is rightly nicknamed the Indomitable City.

L.V.C.

A SURREALISTIC CHESS GAME

by Whalen Buckley (Reuter—March 2, 1968)

THE war in Viet Nam has come to resemble a surrealistic chess game played on a board 500 five hundred miles long.

One side, the U.S., South Viet Nam and their allies, has four times as many pieces as the other and all the major ones, helicopter knights, air strike queens, even a fleet. Its opponent, the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese, has nothing but plodding pawns.

And yet, well into the fifth week since the start of the Lunar New Year offensive, the pawns still held the initiative all over the board.

According to Allied intelligence, 42,000 as many as 10,000 enemy troops circled Saigon, concentrated to the North within ten miles of the city limits. Scores of skirmishes were taking place daily almost in the suburbs and the American command issued an alert for the long-awaited second wave of attacks this weekend.

At Khe Sanh, 20,000 North Vietnamese dug their trenches and tunnels to within 100 yards of the Marines' barbed wire and slowly increased the tempo of their bombardment from the surrounding hills. One anniversary that no one at Khe Sanh is forgetting this year is March 13. It was on that day in 1954 that the battle of Dien Bien Phu began.

Khe Sanh and Saigon were the areas of major concern to the Allies, but the situation appeared dangerous at many other points as well. In the

First Corps Area, a North Vietnamese division maneuvered near Quang Tri city, the capital of Viet Nam's northernmost province. Heavy fighting continued on the outskirts of Hue...

In the Second Corps Area, intelligence sources said, the North Vietnamese had strengthened their forces in the Central Highlands. Sharp fighting took place last week in the three-border region West of Dakto, five miles from Kontum and 100 miles of the south near Ban Me Thuot. The United States' fourth infantry division, with one of its three brigades assigned to the First Corps Area, was hard-pressed to contain the enemy.

South of Saigon, in the Mekong River Delta, the Viet Cong kept steady pressure on Can Tho. American troops and sailors of the mobile riverine force were engaged in exhausting and costly fighting in the week.

Of greater importance in the long run though is the fact of defending the population centers of South Viet Nam against renewed enemy attack. The Allies have virtually abandoned the countryside.

As the troops, militia and revolutionary development teams

have withdrawn, pacification and "search-and-destroy" operations have come to a halt. One senior American staff officer said recently they have no longer had a feel for the situation in rural Viet Nam because they received little information about it.

How has it been possible for an enemy force that totaled no more than 250,000—half of them lightly armed local guerrillas at the start of the offensive and which, according to Allied body counts, lost fifteen per cent of his strength in killed and captured in the past four weeks—to continue to hold the initiative against nearly 1,000,000? Perhaps the most important point is that, for all practical purposes, the enemy have the power to make themselves invisible, moving by night, adept at the arts of camouflage, hidden among the paddies and in the thousands of hamlets themselves, infiltrated in all likelihood into Vietnamese government intelligence services. He can mass his forces, strike against one or many weak points, avoiding the Allies' strength and then disperse.

Even now, within rocket range of the capital, thousands of enemy troops are finding places to hide...



Photos: P.L.A.F. fighters (left) and G.I.'s (right)

